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Kill Rent Protesting, but Do Not Stop Building.

One thing the landlord must remember—and the fair minded landlord not only remembers but admits the fact—is that there is rent protesting. There is protesting among real estate owners, as there is protesting among manufacturers, among farmers, among labor unions, who have the public at their mercy. But just as there are millions of business men and workers who are not preying upon the public, there are thousands of landlords who are not taking advantage of the desperate housing shortage to plumb the man who must have a roof over the heads of his family.

One thing the tenant must remember—and the Legislature will do him a poor service if it does not also remember it—is that while it is a need and a duty to suppress the unspeakable profiteer, it is every whit as essential to increase and increase largely, the supply of homes.

If all rents were cut in half, this wouldn't do a thing for the tens of thousands of families now in vain search of suitable shelter. It would not put a single on a new roof. On the contrary, it would further accentuate the housing shortage; for it would stop building. Everybody realizes this simple truth. If an inadequate rent is arbitrarily fixed by legislation the same thing would happen.

The way of the profiteer should be made as difficult as it is odious. But the way of the builder of houses must not be made impossible. He will not build at present abnormally high costs of labor, abnormally high costs of material, abnormally high costs of maintenance and abnormally high costs of operation unless he can get his money back. And if he cannot build or does not build for whatever reason, all the laws that can be written against the profiteering abomination will never supply the housing deficiency which now confronts, with its possibilities of terrible consequences, financial, social and moral, the prodigious population of this city.

Kill the profiteering, but do not cut off the supply of new houses.

Living Nineteen Centuries.

Dr. ERGENE L. FISK, in pointing out that science has been able to increase an insect's life several hundred per cent, does not promise that the span of human existence can be similarly extended to 1,000 years, but his speech carried the suggestion that man's longevity has no such limits as the Psalmist put on it.

But if it were feasible to make us like the turtle and the redwood tree, would people be much happier? Two or three romancers who have attempted to draw pictures of a world in which there was no death, came to the conclusion that it wouldn't do at all. To look indefinitely upon the face of Nature was all very well, but to gaze at the same human faces until the crack of doom was, according to these novelists, a great trial.

If an individual born in the year 100 A. D. were so favored that he remained alive to this day he probably would be rather a bore. Take him to the Polo Grounds and he would sing the praises of VESPAZIAN's old firetrap the Coliseum. Show him our public library and he would tell that that happened to be in Alexandria when PROLEME PHILADELPHUS founded the library there. Speak of landlords and he would recall his memories of living; he was in Parliament when the Corn Laws were repealed. Drift to prohibition; he heard a lot of current gossip when MOHAMMED decided on dryness.

Setting forth to live nineteen centuries would mean new problems in a young person's life. That old house in the country which you think of buying; it looks good for a hundred years more—a lifetime, you say. But it would never do to buy a home which would tumble down on you in your youth, perhaps the evening when you were having your 150th birthday party. It would be the same with

other things which are supposed to be bought only once: pianos, gold headed canes, wedding rings, sets of HUME and GIBSON.

Getting into a fashionable club would be a matter of centuries. Five hundred year endowment policies would be the proper thing in life insurance. A young New Yorker, wishing to be sure of a moderately quiet suburban home in his declining years, would buy lots in the Hudson's Bay region. Couples would revisit Niagara Falls on their thousandth wedding anniversary to see how much of the cliff had been worn away by the water. In the lanes of the sky the old Manhattanite homeward bound in the rush hour would complain that the congestion was as bad as it used to be in the subway when he was a lad of 60 or so.

To be able to live a score of centuries would make postal service of the Burleson kind easier to bear.

Bird's-eye View of the Beginnings of Attempted Super-government.

The first public view of the League of Nations as an organic body actually functioning is afforded in an anonymous article which appears in the *North American Review* for April. The editor of the *Review* certifies that the information contained in this article is not only detailed but also authoritative.

The Council of the League, in which for reasons well understood the United States Government is not represented, has held two meetings. The first was at Paris on January 16 and was largely ceremonial, although on that occasion the Council did appoint commissioners to assist in drawing the Saar Valley boundary line. The second meeting was at London on February 11, where more business was disposed of, including a call for a conference of the different nations to consider the problems of exchange now troubling the financial world.

So far as the administrative machinery of the League is concerned it consists at present of the Permanent Secretariat provided for in the covenant, with Sir JAMES ERIC DRUMMOND as Secretary-General. The organization of his staff is yet provisional. When completed it will include a Finance Director or treasury department, a registry, a library, a publicity department or information bureau, and a set or series of expert advisory boards in the various spheres of international action: political, economic, medical, judicial and so forth. It will be seen that the scheme affords opportunity for a variegated assortment of portentously elaborate establishments or institutions comprehending all the activities of life that can become subjects of international concern. Colonel HOUSE himself could not have planned a more comprehensive system of expert potentialities than that which now appears in skeleton. The ten sections already created by Sir ERIC DRUMMOND are:

1. Political.
2. Legal.
3. Economic and Financial.
4. Administrative Commissions and Minority Questions.
5. Transit and Communications.
6. Information.
7. Mandates.
8. International Bureau.
9. Registration of Treaties.
10. Social Questions and Health.

It will be seen at a glance that Number 10, which lumps all other social questions with that of health, is capable of almost indefinite subdivision. All human concerns, all evils of the human race, may have their special department as time goes on and organization proceeds.

What we note particularly is that the possible function of a League of Nations to promote and secure peace on earth which has seemed most important to earnest friends of international cooperation, like ERIC ROY, for example, or NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER, namely, the perfection of an international jurisprudence and the establishment of an international tribunal on a sounder basis than the permanent court at The Hague, becomes in the published scheme almost a minor incident of the League's broader preparations for activity. That which Mr. ROY and other advocates of a definite international jurisdiction would have put at the forefront of the movement appears here in very nebulous form, as, indeed, it vaguely appeared in the Wilsonian covenant. The primary duty of the Legal Section, Number 2 in the foregoing conspectus, is "to advise all the other departments of the Secretariat with reference to the juridical aspect of their work." The next duty is to supervise the drafting of treaties and conventions for submission to the Assembly. Lastly, we are told that when a Court of International Justice has been set up by the League of Nations "it will be through the Legal Section that the Court will be kept in contact with the Council of the League."

To those, we say, to whom the most hopeful feature of international cooperation has been the prospect of an extension of the principle of arbitration and the more effective establishment of a judiciary to try cases between Governments, the foregoing provisions will seem very much like putting the cart before the horse. That would have been, but for Mr. Wilson's self-determination, the primary purpose of a League of Nations drops here to the place of a mere detail.

In appportioning the probable expenses of the League's permanent establishment at Geneva, it is interesting to observe that the anonymous informant of Colonel HARVEY's *Review* estimates a total annual expense of about \$250,000, or \$1,000,000, at the

present rate of exchange. We understand that in dividing this total between the signatory Powers, the Financial Administration of the League, under the control of Sir HENRY AMER, a Canadian, would rate United States as 25 units out of an aggregate of 395 units, and would rate Great Britain, Canada, Australia, South Africa and British India, each as a first class Power, each separately like the United States becoming liable for 25 units or \$1,000,000 of the total of \$250,000; while New Zealand rates as a sixth class Power, with an assessment the same as Hayti or Siam's. There is matter for curious study and speculation in this table of classification and assessment under the League's Financial Administration.

Our Museum Keeps an Eye on the Chicago Institute.

There is a perfectly friendly rivalry between our Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Art Institute of Chicago which is of real benefit to both institutions. They keep a watchful eye on each other, which is very necessary at the present time when so many treasures are coming upon the market in Europe as a result of the prevalent heavy taxation.

It is not to the discredit of Chicago—a city noted for civic patriotism—that she should be trying to do in a hurry, in the institution on Michigan avenue, what it took New York fifty years to accomplish in the institution now at Eighty-first street and Fifth avenue. It is creditable to the sister city that she has done so much in spite of the fact that she has been handicapped so seriously in the matter of borrowing as of making acquisitions by the enormous lead that New York has as the undisputed art center of the country.

New Yorkers have another advantage. Works of art ancient and modern, of the recent past and of the immediate future, gravitate here naturally. But the Chicagoans have to go out and get them. In doing so they display a fine lack of prejudice. Thus whenever the director gives a show at the Institute he does so in no propagandist spirit. His one object is to give his people a chance to see what is to be seen. There his responsibility ends. What they think about it is their affair, not his.

A group of works by El Greco, MANET and RENAISSANCE have been added to the Institute through the instrumentality of Mr. MARTIN A. RYERSON, who displayed the highest taste and soundest sort of judgment in making the selection. The Spanish old master and the two French masters have a vital relation to the art of today. The first has become a sort of patron saint of the painters of the twentieth century. RENAISSANCE was acknowledged to be of the greatest living painters when he died the other day. MANET had long passed beyond dispute.

In Mr. RYERSON's timely contribution one potent personality is missing. Should he add examples of CÉZANNE, he would round out for the benefit of Chicago a contribution which as an aid to art knowledge, to sound taste and good judgment ought to make New York sit up and take notice. Here is something accomplished through the public spirit of one benefactor which ought to stimulate searchings of heart in the Metropolitan Museum and the Boston Museum.

Neither can afford to fall behind. As a temporary show, and as it is indicative what is available, the Institute has also hung an exhibition got together from the principal New York dealers, consisting of twenty paintings by TURNER, pastels and drawings by DIXON, and some sixty paintings, drawings, water colors and aquatints by ARTHUR B. DAVIES. Thus Chicago pays the highest and most enviable tribute that has yet been given to a New Yorker by thrusting him into the company of the immortals while he is at the height of his productive powers.

The future of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Chicago Art Institute will depend largely on how they avail themselves of opportunities which have arisen, or will arise very soon. In indulging in a little healthy partnership New Yorkers will be following the guidance of enlightened self-interest, which never did a neighbor any harm.

By Rail Into the Heart of Africa.

When the project of a railroad across the Sahara came up recently for discussion in the French Chamber of Deputies it was conceded that the road must eventually be built and that to France naturally falls its construction. The French have already built lines from the Mediterranean across Algeria to the northern border of the desert, and they are desirous of extending these southward to tap the wealth of resources of their equatorial possessions, which have been vastly increased as a result of the war.

Two routes are proposed by French engineers, each less than 2,000 miles: one from Toungourt, the other from Colomb Béchar, both southern termini of Algerian lines, to Timbuctoo or Bamba, on the big bend of the Niger. Both of the surveys emphasize the difficulties and expense of the construction of a road across the desert. M. L. DURANDIEU, who had directed railway building in southern Algeria, says that the scarcity of water and the cost of transporting coal from Europe preclude the possibility of employing the steam engine for construction purposes or running trains, and necessitate the use of either electric tractors or a new type of engine for motive power.

Because of the danger of rapid

corrosion metallic ties cannot be used, ordinary masonry work along the roadbed is impossible and the rails and switches must be raised on chairs above the ground. Finding laborers who can work in the deserts, furnishing them with water and supplies, and protecting the tracks against the constantly shifting sands and desert sandstorms are important considerations. The natural conditions are such as to require the solution of problems entirely different from those which have heretofore confronted the railroad builder.

Before the war it was a question if a railway built under these difficulties and which would begin in Algeria and end in the tropic regions of West Africa could be made profitable. The present project is more extensive in that it includes the possibilities of an eastward extension into the Belgian territory and an eventual linking up with the British railways of eastern Africa. The French economists, however, are making a strong point of the profits which would result from the building of the trans-Sahara road through the opening up of the wealth of raw materials of interior Africa at the time when they are in great demand. They see an easy and expeditious way of bringing to Europe the products of the great markets of the upper Niger and of utilizing the resources of the French possessions in Africa.

They are not alone in this desire to reach the interior of the continent. The American Consul in British East Africa reports that the British are pushing two extensions of the Uganda railway which will connect the Belgian Congo with the East African coast. Another Anglo-African line is a road northward from Belra, on the Mozambique coast, which will connect with the railway in Nyasaland and thus provide this British colony with an ocean gateway. Both of these projects are referred to as preliminary steps in railway plans to pierce the Congo region.

There appears to be so far no revival in Great Britain of the Cape to Cairo railway scheme. The recent discussion of this project is not of one continuous line running in a more or less straight line from one of these points to the other but of "a large number of alternative routes with connecting branches to the various ports on the east and west coasts." In fact, the present railway projects of Africa seem to have one clearly defined aim, to reach interior Africa and to utilize as quickly as possible its wealth of raw materials.

Africa is the only remaining continent without a great transcontinental railway line. It is improbable, however, that with its great resources it will long continue in this distinction. The railway builder will conquer it, but it is more likely that he will connect its opposite coasts by flanking up its small railways than by following out some grand scheme such as that dreamed of by CECIL RHODES.

Mrs. Humphrey Ward.

It is almost impossible to pick up Mrs. HUMPHREY WARD's "Robert Elsmere" and understand how a novel which now seems so mild and obvious could have caused the sensation it produced in England and America when it appeared in 1888.

It kept Mr. GRANTSTONE up all night. It was preached about in thousands of pulpits and supplied a subject for bitter debate in countless drawing rooms. It was regarded as a daring book, even at that late date, orthodox and respectability were still convertible terms. It was the first of the best sellers because its author had the good fortune to produce something which dealt in a direct way with a serious question of morals—usually avoided—a man's relation to his belief or disbelief.

It was natural that this granddaughter of Dr. ARNOLD of Rugby and niece of MATTHEW ARNOLD should have kept a good deal of the family seriousness even in her capacity of a popular novelist. Her sturdy courage was shown in her consistent attitude toward woman suffrage, as to which she was unsympathetic.

She was not a great Victorian, but she had some of the distinctive Victorian qualities in a high degree.

Hard names neither break bones nor build apartment houses.

Nothing is definitely known about the whereabouts of NICKY ARNSTEIN except that he is so far away that the police can't hear him laughing at them.

It is stated that most of the sleuths sent in by the very slim NICKY ARNSTEIN didn't even know him by sight. So of course all he had to do at any moment was refrain from turning up his coat collar and simply walk down the street under an assumed name.

The trouble about Colonel GABRIELE D'ANNUNZIO is that he has found out that it is more fun to live a poem than to write poetry.

Vernal Verse.

He penned a poem entitled "Spring." You know the type, the usual "stir" about the bird that tries to sing and gets pneumonia, poor thing!

He jollied on about the trees That whisper in the balmy breeze With gentle vernal harmonies— While people shiver, cough and sneeze.

But fat and (twice) felt that skit, For on the day they printed it The birds were warbling fit to spill. As if they never meant to quit.

The sun was shining warmly bright. Each budding tree a happy sight. Water had vanished overnight. And folks were laughing with delight.

Yet nothing did that poet recite. Though Nature's charms were all on deck. For in a day or two, by heck! His R. F. D. brought round the check.

Horns of a Dilemma.

The South-as-a landowner I wish to proffer, but as a tenant I wish some was passed against it.

THE ROMAN WAY.

Dr. Stowell Derives an Interesting Suggestion From the Pages of Livy.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: When the Roman officials at the conclusion of a war had duly negotiated a treaty of peace they were bound to submit it to the approval of the august Senate representing the Roman people. If the Senate considered that public interest required it to withhold its consent it was customary, in lieu of ratification, to hand over to the other side the officials who had negotiated the treaty and held out the expectation of ratification by the Senate. A well-known instance was the peace of the Caudine Forks in the war between Rome and Samnium for the conquest of central Italy. (See Philippon, "International Law of Greece and Rome.")

Livy gives an interesting account of the procedure when this treaty was called up for consideration by the Senate. The vote was against ratification and arrangements were made to deliver the officials into the hands of the Samnites. The victims were stripped of their clothes, their hands were bound behind their backs, and they were formally surrendered by the patrum patrum. Similarly, when the Romans (317 B. C.) rejected the treaty with the Numantians they surrendered the sponsor.

Might it not be well to submit to the American people the property and the advantage of following a precedent so illustrious? ELLIOTT C. STOWELL, WASHINGTON, March 24.

ARE BIRDS SO WICKED?

The Males Called Vicious Fighters, the Females Vampires.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: The recent correspondence in your paper on the murderous habits of birds is interesting in the light of natural history. The letter of Caroline G. Heath pleads specially for the bluebird as being the victim of the house wren. It would be safer to prefer a blanket indictment against the whole feathered tribe, for the fighting instinct is in all.

It is only fair to say that it is in the male sex that the killing habit predominates. From the eagle to the hummingbird the males are the combatants to have their bats in the ring.

It is gratifying to learn that the females admire and reward the prowess of the males by pairing with the victors in the duels which have been fought for their favors. Not all bird battles are fought for the purpose of securing a mate. With some species the only showdown is nearly as that the combatants see one another; neither do they stand on any ceremony, for they will fight in midair as readily as on the ground.

Birds are naturally cruel and without feeling. Darwin, a most acute observer, relates many instances of the terrible wounds inflicted and received. It may be said that the relative cruelty of the fighting bird is a great deal less than that of the human. The vicious attribute is only relieved by the indomitable courage they display. The gamecock will fight literally to the death.

As for the females, they are nearly all vamps and their affection is worth as little as that of those heartless ladies. If they are widowed three times in one day they will console themselves on the morrow with the first male that comes along. I said nothing about the mourner we never left long alone. It is fair to add that the females are faithful to one mate at a time, although some species are dreadful polygamists.

Possibly the birds would urge in their defense that nature intended them to be fighters, for their spurs, some on the legs and some on the wings, are fit for nothing else.

It is very pretty to idealize the robin, as one of your contributors did recently, but in sober truth the robin is a crook and a bully. He will fight any bird that wears a livery of a similar color to his own. He is a wife beater and his general conduct at home is disgraceful.

WALTER E. ALLEN, New York, March 24.

SOUTH-AMERICAN NEWS.

A Letter of Appeal and Congratulations From the Bolivian Minister.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: I take the liberty of expressing to you my congratulations for your very sensible editorial article on "Sensational News Despatches From South America" in your issue of March 22. It strikes very correctly the need of proper news service. You are perfectly right when you call attention to "the common tendency to give prominence to sensational incidents to the exclusion of serious matters."

The latest sensation from South America has been the news purporting to show how the Bolivian Government was mobilizing its troops and mentioning various other incidents, magnifying an ordinary mob outbreak, the cause of which I prefer not to discuss in order to avoid the slightest pretext for a controversy; but I must affirm that the Bolivian Government has no claim to a port's not a question to be settled by violence or force, is firmly decided to submit it to the arbitration of justice and right, knowing that it is the only proper solution that lasts and that weak nations must and can expect and depend upon.

The collection of news from the United States to South America and from the southern republics here will undoubtedly go far to cement the good will and friendship all true Americans must wish to maintain.

I. CALDERON, Bolivian Minister, WASHINGTON, March 24.

For Real News From Latin America.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: I am writing to congratulate you on the attitude taken in the editorial article headed "Sensational News Despatches From South America." The Pan-American Society has for years deplored this habit of the press of the two continents of confining itself almost wholly to sensational items when printing the news.

John S. France.

He penned a poem entitled "Spring." You know the type, the usual "stir" about the bird that tries to sing and gets pneumonia, poor thing!

He jollied on about the trees That whisper in the balmy breeze With gentle vernal harmonies— While people shiver, cough and sneeze.

But fat and (twice) felt that skit, For on the day they printed it The birds were warbling fit to spill. As if they never meant to quit.

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Horns of a Dilemma.

The South-as-a landowner I wish to proffer, but as a tenant I wish some was passed against it.

LANDLORDS' PROFITS.

Stewart Browne Explains the Suggested Limit of 20 Per Cent.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: In view of the somewhat erroneous reporting of what took place at the Hotel Astor last Sunday and the editorial comments thereon may I beg the courtesy of sufficient space to place our views before the public?

My position and that of the United Real Estate Owners Association for eighteen months past has been one of opposition to rent profiteering.

One of the objections of the League really owners is that the rights of property are sacrosanct and cannot be limited or abridged by government; that a man has the right to do with his own, as, and they have the Constitution and constitutionality on the brain, and that if labor, the manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer can profiteer, they have equal rights. They know more law than the Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.

Knowing these peculiarities, at the Hotel Astor as a ball of the I asked how a limit of 20 per cent. net profit would suit them. I did this because there was a bill providing a 10 per cent. limit, and I had suggested that it be made 15 per cent., and there did not seem to be much objection. I felt if I could get the meeting committed to the principle, even at 20 per cent., the suggestion would accept the principle but reduce the rate.

So far as the association's members are concerned there are thousands of owners, American born for two and three generations, who have had some tenants for years and never evicted one, and who as a class have increased rents from 10 per cent. to 25 per cent. They don't know how to profiteer, and yet, when the rent is raised, they insist that 20 per cent. wasn't enough and they wanted to get all they could get, the same as labor does. Mr. Becker, who made the latter statement, hasn't increased his rents over 15 per cent., and he didn't mean the implication that was drawn from it.

The hearing at Albany was the most disgraceful affair I ever attended, both on the part of landlords and tenants. It was a farce. It was a farce to have certain landlords by their extravagant language must have convinced the committee that most drastic laws should be passed to curb what the present must have considered practical landlords, and yet I know that the majority of those men haven't increased their rents over 20 per cent. If even done so 100 per cent. and 200 per cent. As regards the Joint Housing Committee's bill, I am certain that there were not over six men present who knew what these bills contained, but they vehemently objected to them.

The temper of the hearing was such that all I did was to correct the impression regarding my position and the association's conveyed by the press. In question, I have, however, asked for a hearing in executive session, and my own view is that with very slight amendment they can be approved by all sane really owners, who have the good of the State and city and even of reality at heart.

STEWART BROWNE, New York, March 24.

TRANSIT TROUBLES.

Worthless Transfers and a Subterranean Trap for Nickels.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: Boarding an east bound Fifty-ninth street cross-town car at Broadway and observing that the conductor was handing out transfers on payment of fares, I asked for a transfer to the Madison avenue line. Upon offering this slip, which purported to be good on "Madison avenue line N. or S." to the conductor on a south bound Madison avenue car, he, in a not excessively pleasant tone and manner, rather astonished me by remarking that those were no good on that line, and all argument was useless. He acted as though he had wearied of the frequent presentation. As I was going only a few blocks anyway, I walked and thus escaped being nickel stung.

I cannot help thinking that the management and conductors are perfectly aware that those transfers are worthless on the Madison avenue line at least.

And, by the way, the B. R. T. attempted a few days ago to exact an extra nickel from me in the Forty-second street car. I wished to pass from the B. R. T. subterranean cavern to the Seventh avenue grotto without emerging again into the upper spheres, but Charon the chopper, because he found no oblation in my mouth, refused to ferry me across; but upon looking about me I observed a deeper subterranean passage which avoided the demand for the extra nickel without being nickelized for my lack of familiarity with this Achernor or the catamounts. J. F. C. GROV, CRANFORD, N. J., March 24.

The Milk Supply.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: The Milk Reporter has for years published the receipts of milk and cream daily delivered in this city. I find in the February number the daily average for January was 73,234 cans of plain milk of forty quarts each, or 2,931,760 quarts.

I doubt very much the truth of the statement that there is now the zones supplying this city a daily surplus of 2,500,000 quarts or anything like an amount. L. R., NEW YORK, March 24.

Waiting to Hear the Crack of the Heartbreak.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: I hope Mr. President Wilson is pleased with the result of his giving together of the peace treaty and League of Nations. When the heart of the world breaks will you kindly advise in your columns? Otherwise we in the backwoods might not know of the catastrophe. G. F. SHEPARD, STAFFORD SPRINGS, Conn., March 24.

One View of Senator Newberry's Case.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: The conviction of Senator Newberry on technical grounds may be justified; most people think he should receive explicitly the thanks of the public for keeping Ford out of the Senate. The most interesting inference we draw from the whole affair is this: Ford and the Wilsonites backed him did not spend more than \$3,500 in the campaign to elect him to the Senate. ALBERT R. GALLATIN, NEW YORK, March 24.

The Modern Kansas Version.

From the Burlington Enterprise.

Blanket your horses when you compel them to stand on the stretch these chilly, windy March days. If you are not to own a horse, blanket your automobile.

CITY CONFRONTED BY FAMINE IN MILK

Producers to Refuse Deliveries Unless Terms of League Are Accepted.

COPELAND APPREHENSIVE Fears for Welfare of Babies and Invalids if Supply Is Cut Off.

With the production of milk up State almost double the demand New York city is threatened with a complete stoppage of its supply next week, because the Milk Conference Board, representing the buyers, and the Dairyman's League, representing 80,000 producers, cannot get together on the price. After five days of fruitless discussion the board of food, last night, announced that a "statement" will be issued to-day.

Dr. Royal S. Copeland, Commissioner of Health, is concerned seriously. A milk famine, he pointed out, will endanger the lives of thousands of invalids and children. Unless the matter is settled before April 1, when the present contracts expire, he expects the officials of the Dairyman's League to do as they did on January 1, when the milk supply was shut off until a price was fixed satisfactory to them.

Statistics in the Health Department show that immediately following the three weeks embargo of 1919 infant mortality in this city increased from 90 to 119 deaths per 1,000 per annum and remained above normal.

Dr. Copeland said this was due to lack of milk.

Blames League Officials.

"In December, 1918, there was the same trouble," the Commissioner said, "and I dragged along until New Year's day, when New York woke up and found it was without milk. The officials of the Dairyman's League said: 'We must get our prices up to 10 cents a quart, and there was no milk to feed the babies of this city. They may do the same thing next Thursday if they are not watched.'"

"I am not criticizing the Dairyman's League as a whole," he continued. "The officials of the league—Cooper, Miller and Manning—make all the trouble. There is too much power in the hands of a few men. If we could get rid of them we could do something. I don't believe the farmers up State want our babies and the invalids in our hospitals to suffer. They would not want to keep milk out of the city if they knew what it means."

A conference was held at the Board of Health yesterday to discuss the possibility of increasing milk consumption. The officials of the league were present and they all promised Commissioner Copeland to cooperate in every way, but as the situation rests on the price to be paid by the city, the board has no definite measures were taken.

Will Encourage Milk Drinking.

The Board of Health plans to popularize milk on account of the alarming prevalence of malnutrition among school children